

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs BMAP

OSTDS Initiative

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Background

- The next largest source category is OSTDS
- Uncertainties
 - Water quality response to current management actions and wastewater upgrades
 - Outcome from DOH Study
 - Legislative actions
- The OSTDS Initiative will position the BMAP and stakeholders to continue momentum



OSTDS Initiative Objectives

- Identify effective and feasible strategies to reduce nutrient loads from OSTDS sources and priority areas.
- Identify OSTDS responsibilities
 - Who
 - How much
 - Funding opportunities
- Ensure implementation through stakeholder commitments and BMAP authority.



Staged Approach - Phase I

- Phase I will occur during BMAP development to:
 - Identify existing number and geographic distribution of OSTDS within the PFAs
 - Estimate existing nitrate + nitrite loads from OSTDS within the PFAs to the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs
 - Commitments for continued development of and participation in the OSTDS Initiative



Staged Approach - Phase II

- Phase II will occur after BMAP adoption to evaluate potential management strategies
- Potential strategies may include:
 - Current OSTDS strategies and any modifications
 - Expanding existing wastewater treatment plants' collection systems and extending service to OSTDS concentrations
 - Outcome of DOH Nutrient Reduction Study
 - Use of cluster systems to centralize OSTDS drainfields and determine effluent impacts to ground water



Staged Approach - Phase III

- Phase III will identify effective management strategies and stakeholder responsibility:
 - Determining proposed target reductions
 - Identifying potential future loading prevention strategies for consideration
 - Preparing a Department report on management strategies (proposed completion at 30 months after BMAP adoption)
- The Department's report will:
 - Describe effective management strategies
 - Prioritize the individual strategies
 - Identify the relative responsibilities for nitrate/nitrite contributions from individual stakeholders
- The Department will continue to monitoring water quality results.



Staged Approach - Phase IV

- Phase IV is the implementation of OSTDS management strategies
- Based on the Department's report, affected stakeholders will have time to develop implementation plans and strategies
- The implementation plans will be included in the next iteration of the BMAP and must address the responsibilities identified in the report



Milestones

- December 2013: Adopt the Upper Wakulla and Wakulla Springs BMAP.
- January 2015: Projected completion of DOH's Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study.
- July 2016: Complete Department report that identifies reduction targets and management strategies.
- January 2019: Complete an assessment and revise the BMAP to include additional management strategies based upon the OSTDS Initiative if needed.



Questions on the OSTDS Initiative





Department's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Permitting Authority



Questions from June Meeting

- Can the Department require existing WWTFs in the basin to upgrade to higher treatment efficiencies since these facilities are located in an impaired springshed?
- Will the Department be prohibited from issuing additional WWTF permits in the springshed until the Upper Wakulla River total maximum daily load (TMDL) is achieved?
- Will the existing WWTFs be allowed to expand in order to take additional flows from future growth and as OSTDS are taken offline? Would any WWTF be required to upgrade to advanced waste treatment (AWT) in order to expand, if it is not already at AWT?